



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

March 21, 2013

To: Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee  
Senator Alan Bates, Co-Chair  
Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair

Re: SB 5529 – Department of Human Services - Support

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The League has a position on Meeting Basic Human Needs and Children at Risk, which encourages the full development and ensures the safety of all children.

The League supports the maintenance of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families at the five year maximum level. Applications for food and medical care to meet basic needs are included. The League also supports the Jobs Program and Day Care for those parents who are in education or job training programs and Day Care as a transition into full employment. The agency can make referrals for emergency shelter, housing or utility assistance, and affordable housing options through the Oregon Housing and Community Services agency for the short term or long term self-sufficiency.

The League also supports in home services for Developmentally Delayed children and adults in order to assist families in their care and to maintain their independence in the least restrictive environment. Vocational Rehabilitation for special education students exiting from public education and for disabled adults can contribute to their self-worth and independence or move them toward job readiness or employment.

The Child Welfare investigations of abuse and neglect reports contributes to child safety and should provide a safe substitute placement when parents are not functionally able to provide a safe home. The League supports placement with relatives or families in their own communities in order to maintain connections with relatives or neighborhoods. The family counseling and reintegration is very important to the development of the future for these children. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program is a resource for older teens who may be on their own and need a safe place to live while they complete school and find jobs and adult living arrangements. These teen shelters are an essential pregnancy prevention service and provide stability and support while teens emancipate.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Robin Wisdom in cursive.

Robin Wisdom  
LWVOR President

Handwritten signature of Karen Nibler in cursive.

Karen Nibler  
Social Policy Coordinator